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# *The President's Daily Brief*

*24 February 1970*

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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# THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 February 1970

## PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Laos, Communist forces are threatening the government airstrip at Muong Soui. *(Page 1)*

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Chancellor Brandt's strategy for his meeting with his East German opposite number next month is outlined on *Page 3.*

The agreement King Husayn obtained from the fedayeen seems less restrictive than his decrees of 10 February [redacted] 50X1 *(Page 4)*

Israeli authorities are groping for a solution to the problems of air sabotage and hijacking, but without much success. *(Page 5)*

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1



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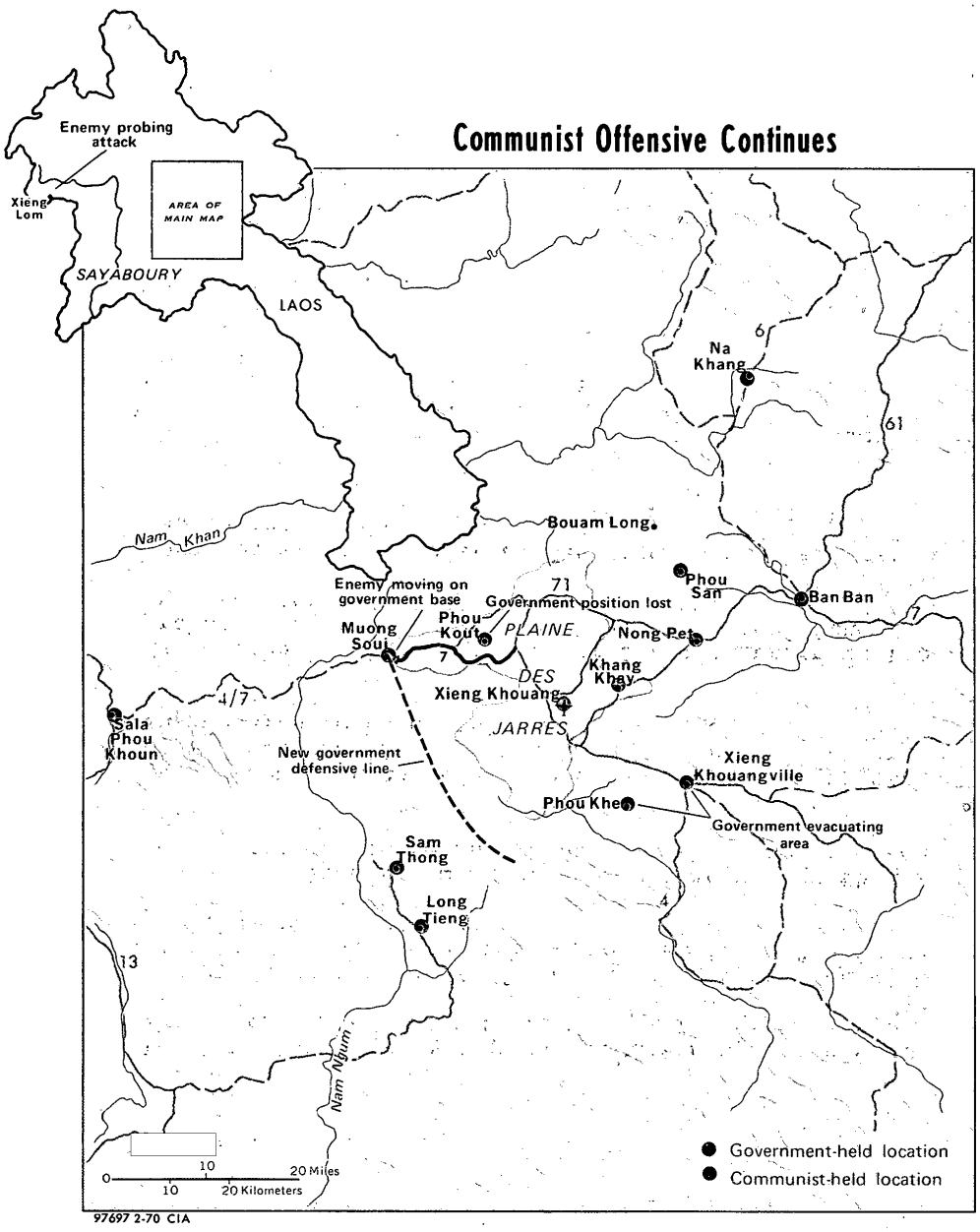
## Communist Offensive Continues

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# LAOS

Communist forces are threatening the government airstrip at Muong Soui. A probing attack early this morning was unsuccessful, but ammunition and POL supplies at the base are burning and some government forces are withdrawing westward on Route 7. With additional enemy units moving into the area, the small number of defenders still at Muong Soui probably will offer only token resistance to further Communist attacks. Muong Soui had been an important base for Lao fighter-bombers providing close air support in the Plaine des Jarres area.

Southwest of the Plaine, Vang Pao is reinforcing his defensive line with 155-mm. howitzers and most of the 1,100-man garrison now being evacuated from Xieng Khouangville.

*The Communist counteroffensive, under-way for little more than a week, has pretty much erased the government's gains in its unusually successful rainy season offensive. The enemy's rapid advance has resulted in part from Vang Pao's efforts to keep his casualties as low as possible. By yesterday, all but 200 of the 1,300-man defensive force from Xieng Khouang airfield had reappeared at government positions.*

*The lack of adequate stockpiles on or near the Plaine will probably keep the enemy from pushing deep into government-controlled areas for the time being. Once their supply lines are re-established, the Communists will probably turn their attention to Vang Pao's new defense line southwest of the Plaine.*

In western Sayaboury Province, meanwhile, Communist forces launched their first heavy probing attack yesterday against the government base at Xieng Lom. Xieng Lom, about five miles from the Thai border, is an important government staging base for guerrilla operations against the Communists in the Thai-Lao border area.





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FRANCE

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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## EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

In his meeting with East German Premier Stoph next month, Chancellor Brandt will try to line up acceptance of a series of principles governing East German - West German relations, according to Bonn Foreign Ministry officials. If a draft agreement is hammered out by lower level officials, Brandt and Stoph could get together again in Bonn in April to sign it.

*Other Bonn officials doubt that talks can proceed so rapidly, and cite the problems that have arisen in the talks with Gromyko and other Soviet leaders. Even if both sides make significant concessions to move things along at high speed, the talks could still founder altogether on the issue of recognition of East German sovereignty.*




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## JORDAN

The agreement between King Husayn and the fedayeen, [redacted] seems less restrictive than the King's decrees of 10 February and more in line with the fedayeen's self-imposed curbs. The agreement prohibits the fedayeen from carrying or firing arms in the cities and from interfering with civilians and security forces. It also puts some restrictions on fedayeen fund raising and requires registration of fedayeen vehicles. 50X1 50X1

On the other hand, fedayeen "military police" are permitted to carry arms, there are some exceptions in favor of the fedayeen on the storage of ammunition and explosives in the cities, and there are only token restrictions on public meetings and publications. Most importantly, the accord is vague on the question of enforcement, appearing to leave it at least in part to the fedayeen. The agreement says only that fedayeen violators of Jordanian law are "to be handed over" to Jordanian authorities.

Yasir Arafat of Fatah and the leader of the Syrian-supported Saiqa organization signed the agreement for the fedayeen. [redacted] Arafat later obtained the somewhat grudging approval of the other eight groups in the newly formed unified fedayeen command. 50X1 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1





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## ISRAEL

Israel's appeal to European nations to help find a way to prevent hijackings and a repetition of the weekend sabotage seems destined to fall on sympathetic ears but will probably produce few tangible results. The suspension of air service to Tel Aviv by even a few airlines will seriously weaken Israel's link with Europe and is the kind of "blockade" the terrorists hope to create.

*Diplomatic protests by Israeli ambassadors are ineffective simply because there is as yet no way to insure precognition of sabotage or terrorism. Israeli authorities, including Mrs. Meir, have no good solution to the problem, although Tel Aviv press reports allude to prospects of "action" by Israel to defend its air routes and its citizens.*





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## NOTES

Nigeria: [redacted] 50X1
50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Bolivia-USSR: [redacted] 50X1
50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Guyana-Venezuela: Troops on both sides of the disputed border have lobbed a few mortar shells at each other, but thus far have inflicted no casualties. The sporadic firing seems to be little more than an effort by the border-post troops to alleviate boredom and frustration. In the wake of the collapse of the diplomatic negotiations about the border, however, if either side suffers significant casualties there could be serious repercussions.





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